



WIMBORNE MINSTER URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCORPORATING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR/SURVEYOR

FOR THE YEAR..... 1968

WIMBORNE MINSTER URBAN DISTRICT.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| CHAIRMAN..... | Councillor R.H. Rodway |
| VICE - CHAIRMAN..... | Councillor N.L. Rowan |

COUNCILLORS:-

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| A.F. Corbin | Dr. E.H. Markby |
| S.I. Dennett | F.W.J. Moore |
| Dr. D.G.A. Leggett. | H.V. Purchase |
| A. R. Maiden | J.W. Smith |

W.C. Tapper

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. G.B. Hopkins, M.B., Ch.B., B. Pharm. D.P.H

Holding appointments of:-

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer
School Medical Officer.

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne Minster Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne R.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Blandford Forum.

Medical Officer of Health - Blandford Rural District.

Contributing roughly:-

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Wimborne Minster Urban District..... | $\frac{1}{3}$ day per week |
| Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District..... | $1\frac{1}{2}$ days per week |
| Borough of Blandford Forum..... | $\frac{1}{4}$ day per week |
| Blandford Rural District..... | $\frac{1}{2}$ day per week. |

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR/SURVEYOR/HOUSING MANAGER.

F. Caddick M.R.S.H. M.A.P.H.I.

Dr. Noel Pearson from the North Dorset area kindly acts as my deputy in an honorary capacity during my absence.

Area Office,
Health Clinic,
Rowlands Hill,
Wimborne,
Dorset

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report for 1968.

I have often commenced with a short discussion on the subject of notifiable diseases and am pleased to say that this priority is becoming doubtfully justifiable. The whole subject was a very sad and gloomy one at the turn of the century, a fact which is not fully appreciated by to-day's young parents. The revolution which has occurred is based on three factors. First a huge advance in social circumstances due to better houses, more and better food and clothing and advancing enlightenment through education. Secondly the enormous strides forward in prevention through the development of vaccines against the common childhood ailments, coupled with their vigorous application, and thirdly the great strides in curative medicine mainly through the discovery of antibiotics.

The first and last of these three factors has for many years reduced the mortality from measles, and now the second factor, specific prevention through vaccines has assumed its proper place.

In the quinquennial period 1962 to 1966 in England and Wales there were 434 deaths from measles, which is 100 more than the combined total of deaths from poliomyelitis, smallpox, diphtheria and whooping cough. The measles tide ebbs and flows bienially. The flood tide of

1961 produced $\frac{3}{4}$ million notifiable cases, the actual number probably being higher, even the ebb years produce about $\frac{1}{4}$ million. A national survey suggests that of these $\frac{1}{4}$ million cases 50,000 would require four or more visits by their doctor, and one in 15 would suffer from a potentially severe complication, for instance severe bronchitis or pneumonia in about 4%, middle ear infection in about 2.5% with just over 1% of all cases requiring admission to hospital. 4 in every 1,000 show evidence of inflammation of the brain and 1 per 1,000 actual encephalitis, with permanent mental and physical crippledom. These figures are quoted in detail in order to give an idea of the dividends to be obtained from the successful application of a measles vaccination campaign, which has already demonstrated its value in your district.

Indeed, we have every reason to be proud of the magnificent preventive and curative "umbrella" held over the modern child. There are unfortunately areas of neglect due to human failures as a glance at the Annual Reports of the N.S.P.C.C. will reveal, and there is always the sad and reproachful story of the neglect of childrens' teeth in the sphere of prevention. Far too much sticky sweet stuff continues to be chewed by most children and indeed teeth are the victims of a massive public apathy, how else can parental neglect of a good and regular diet and public neglect to fluoridate water supplies be explained?. Alarming numbers of relatively young adults require full dentures but it is not sufficiently known that after many years, indeed up to three quarters of a lifetime in some cases, of erosion of jaw bone due to absence of teeth the prospect of good fitting dentures diminishes as time goes on.

It is the rule rather than the exception that even otherwise well informed parents continue to buy their childrens' teeth from them with pocket money, and at the same time fail to take enough interest in the subject of fluoridation to distinguish between fact and fancy.

The picture of the middle aged is not free from the effects of apathy.

In this age group 30% die from cancer and heart disease, 10% from strokes, 4% from violence (suicide, traffic, sport etc.,) and 7% from chronic bronchitis.

Smoking has a large impact on the proportion of deaths due to heart disease and chronic bronchitis. Lack of exercise and overeating are likewise important factors. Even in the case of traffic accidents it is apathy which determines that the majority of car occupants do not use safety belts.

That change in public attitudes is necessary is suggested by the fact that in Sweden middle aged men experience half the death rate of those in Scotland. In Norway the chances of survival from 65 to 85 are double those in England, and, nearer to home, France is improving her lead over Britain in the middle aged death rates. It is most likely that environmental factors play an important part in these differences and environmental factors are capable of modification.

My Report for 1967 advanced statistical reasons for believing that the problem of suitable accommodation for the elderly was a growing one. Experience elsewhere shows that waiting lists of elderly aspirants to warden supervised dwellings have a remarkable habit of remaining despite the provision of more and more dwellings. In this context it is appropriate

appropriate to mention the firm establishment of an Abbeyfield House in St. John's Hill, so successful a venture that another was nearing completion in the Avenue by the end of the year, with every prospect of being filled in a very short time.

The tenants in both these houses have bed sitting rooms equipped with minimum cooking requirements and have two excellent cooked meals prepared for them each day by a resident housekeeper.

The tenants number six and seven respectively and the success of this type of accommodation underlines the need.

Despite the very extensive "clean sweep" in the sphere of clearance of unfit houses made by the Council in recent years, it became necessary to seriously consider the future of the houses in Eden Grove during the year. There had been several years of effort by all concerned to keep these houses in reasonable condition but during the year the Council accepted a recommendation that the area was one suitable for clearance. A public enquiry followed and the Minister agreed with the Council's contentions. When completed this venture will constitute another significant local step in the advancement of the social policy which has had such a powerful beneficial effect upon the health of the nation during the past century; almost exactly a century if one goes back to the starting point of the Royal Commission on the housing of the Working Classes in 1872.

Having delved into history once prompts me to delve even further. In medieval times the serf was bound to his parish because he was ostracised outside it, he could not get a job or a house if he moved. How strange that the modern council house tenant, prospective or actual,

is in a **similar** position. If he has been on a waiting list for five years and wishes to move he must face the "stateless" status, so far as a council house is concerned, in the new district. If he is in a council house and wishes to move he has a very slender hope of transferring, slender indeed if his move is far, otherwise he is likely to have to stay willy nilly.

Hopping into the time machine and flitting forward to 1969 and Seeborn the latter document touches upon the need for housing authorities to be much larger and presumably advocates the disappearance of district councils in this sphere. Then the council house tenant could at least move about in his new regional authority, but he still could not move far unless by close liaison between major authorities. But why not close liaison between district housing authorities to facilitate transfer of tenants, and preservation of eligibility and waiting list time for prospective tenants, who move from district to district?.

There follows the report of the Public Health Inspector and the customary details and statistics.

JULY, 1969.



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SECTION A

| | |
|--|----------|
| Area in Acres..... | 653 |
| Population as estimated by Registrar General..... | 4,410 |
| Estimated number of inhabited houses at 31st December, 1968..... | 1,505 |
| Rateable value at 1st April, 1968..... | £236,262 |
| Estimated product of 1d rate on 1st April, 1968..... | £910 |

AS SUPPLIED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

| <u>BIRTHS</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Males.</u> | | <u>Females.</u> | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | <u>Legit.</u> | <u>Illegit.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Legit.</u> | <u>Illeg.</u> |
| Total number registered..... | 38 | 36 | 2 | 31 | 27 | 4 |
| Stillbirths..... | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - |

| <u>DEATHS</u> | <u>Males.</u> | | <u>Females.</u> | |
|------------------------------|---------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Total number registered..... | 46 | | 45 | |

| | <u>Wimborne Urban District</u> | <u>England & Wales.</u> | <u>Administrative County</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Standardised Birth Rate..... | 18.4 | 16.9 | 17.1 |
| Standardised Death Rate..... | 14.2 | 11.9 | 11.0 |

COMPARABILITY FACTORS.

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Births..... | 1.18 |
| Deaths..... | 0.69 |

SECTION B

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Ambulance Service is provided by the Dorset County Council. Control is centralised in Dorchester and the service operates from the Ambulance Station at Hanham Road.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

This is situated at Boscombe and provides an excellent free service for the bacteriological examination of human specimens, food, milk and water. Plans were well advanced for the move to a new laboratory attached to the new hospital in Poole.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The County Council provided an Infant Welfare Clinic in Wimborne every fortnight. This is held at the Health Clinic, Rowlands Hill.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

A local organiser for the Urban and Rural Districts of Wimborne attends to the detailed administration of this valuable service which has grown steadily since its inception. The organiser is based at the Ferndown Health Clinic and may be telephoned from 9 am to 10 a.m. from Monday to Friday.

SECTION C

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIONS DISEASES.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Measles..... | 5 |
| Whooping Cough..... | 1 |

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year the number of cases in the Tuberculosis Register were as follows:-

PULMONARY

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Males..... | 7 |
| Females..... | 4 |

NON-PULMONARY

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Males..... | 0 |
| Females..... | 1 |

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION
STATISTICS.

| <u>POLIOMYELITIS.</u> | <u>DIPHTHERIA.</u> | <u>TETANUS.</u> | <u>WHOOPING</u> <u>COUGH.</u> | <u>SMALLPOX.</u> | <u>MEASLES.</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| P. | R. | P. | R. | P. | R. |
| 84. | 103. | 80. | 88 | 56. | 4 |
| | | 82. | 97. | | 137 |
| | | | 77. | | |
| | | | 32. | | |

P = Primary
R = Reinforcing Dose.

SECTION D
STATISTICAL TABLES - 1968

CAUSES OF DEATH.

MALE.

FEMALE.

| | | | |
|-----|--|----|----|
| 1. | Malignant Neoplasm - stomach..... | - | 1 |
| 2. | Malignant Neoplasm - lung,bronchus..... | 2 | - |
| 3. | Malignant Neoplasm - uterus..... | - | 1 |
| 4. | Leukaemia..... | - | 2 |
| 5. | Other Malignant Neoplasms etc..... | 5 | 4 |
| 6. | Other Endocrine etc. Diseases..... | 1 | - |
| 7. | Hypertensive Disease..... | 2 | 1 |
| 8. | Ischaemic Heart Disease..... | 17 | 12 |
| 9. | Cerebrovascular Disease..... | 9 | 9 |
| 10. | Other diseases of circulatory system..... | 1 | 5 |
| 11. | Pneumonia..... | 1 | 2 |
| 12. | Bronchitis and Emphysema..... | 4 | 1 |
| 13. | Other diseases of Respiratory System..... | 1 | - |
| 14. | Peptic Ulcer..... | 1 | - |
| 15. | Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System..... | - | 1 |
| 16. | Congenital Anomalies..... | - | 1 |
| 17. | Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc..... | - | 1 |
| 18. | Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions..... | - | 1 |
| 19. | All Other Accidents..... | 2 | 3 |

Total All Causes.....

46

45

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Unfit Properties.

A Clearance Order was made relating to the 18 houses in Eden Grove. The Public Health Inquiry was held in July last and the Order confirmed by the Ministry in September.

New Housing.

The Ministry approved the Council proposal for building 30 new dwellings by infilling at Leigh Park. This was to enable the Eden Grove families to be re-housed, the Council estates used to fuller advantage and further applicants on the list- including families needing accommodation for employment reason - to be re-housed. The Contract of Remma Construction Ltd., to build 21 houses and 9 flats had been approved by the end of the year.

Refuse Collection

On the 13th February last the refuse lorry was involved in an accident. The three men were injured badly. Now one year later the three men are back in employment but are incapable of refuse collection duties. Two of them are still of limited activity. The lorry was damaged beyond repair. A new one was on requisition anyhow.

The greater capacity of the new lorry means only one journey per day to Poole. The total volume of refuse increases and the weight declines as noted in the national statistics. Our figures for the past three years are:

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1966..... | 1202 tons in 579 loads. |
| 1967..... | 1338 tons in 731 loads. |
| 1968..... | 1256 tons in 348 loads. |

The final costs for the financial year will come from the Financial Officer. However, my costings of purely working costs as distinct from overheads and other charges to the public cleansing accounts show a downward tendency compared with 1967 as follows:

| | Year 1967/8. | Year 1968/9 | Reduction |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| Wages 1st April to Mid-January. | £2574 | £2282 | 11.3% |
| Other costs: Lorry maintenance | | | |
| Poole Charges etc. | £1511 | £1337 | 11.5% |
| TOTAL. | £4085 | £3619 | 11.4% |

The Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Attempts were made to make progress with the survey of all shops and offices as required by the Act, but in the event although 24 visits were made for the purposes of the Act, only 12 of these were full surveys. This means that 40 premises have been surveyed, about 29% of the total.

In connection with 6 premises written notices have been sent drawing attention to shortcomings in relation to the following:-

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Registration..... | 1 | |
| Cleanliness..... | 2 | |
| Heating..... | 4 | |
| Thermometers..... | 4 | |
| Ventilation..... | 3 | |
| Lighting..... | 3 | |
| Sanitary conveniences..... | 4 | |
| Washing facilities..... | 4 | |
| Drinking Water..... | 5 | |
| Accommodation for drying | 4 | (clothes) |
| Seating arrangements..... | 1 | |
| Repairs..... | 1 | |
| First Aid..... | 2 | |
| Information available..... | 3 | |

No contravention was sufficient to warrant prosecution at this stage.

It is understood that most of these have been dealt with but detailed re-checking hasnot yet been made.

Three accidents were investigated and suggestions made as to structural alterations or different procedure for avoiding any repetition .

Whenever plans for new buildings or alterations are put in, these are checked and commented on for the requirements of the Act, and occupiers are becoming increasingly aware of their responsibilities.

THE SHOPS AND OFFICES AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT
1963.

A. REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

| <u>CLASS OF PREMISES.</u> | <u>NEW REGISTRATIONS</u> | <u>TOTAL REGISTERED.</u> | <u>PREMISES GIVEN GENERAL INSPECTION</u> |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Offices..... | 4 | 53 | 1 |
| Retail shops..... | 4 | 86 | 11 |
| Wholesale Shops) and Warehouses.).... | - | 5 | - |
| Catering and Canteen Establishments..... | 2 | 7 | - |
| TOTALS..... | 10 | 151 | 12 |

B. TOTAL VISITS..... 20

C. PERSONS EMPLOYED.

Offices..... 290
Shops..... 369
Wholesale
Depts..... 46
Catering
Est s..... 33
Canteens.... 1

739

327 males. 412 females

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949Rats and Mice Control:

Premises treated during year were as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Premises treated for Rats..... | 53 |
| Premises treated for Mice..... | 8 |
| | <u>61</u> |

Approximate visits for the purpose by the Rodent Operator..... 305

There are 1476 properties in the town. Therefore 4.13% was the proportion treated. These were mainly isolated cases. There were no major infestations.

There was no report of infestation in the sewers. These were treated the previous year with nil results.

VISITS OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.HOUSING ACTS ETC.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Clearance Areas..... | 20 |
| Miscellaneous Housing Visits..... | 10 |
| Improvement Grants..... | 3 |

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Nuisance investigations..... | 45 |
| Re-visits re nuisance abatement..... | 23 |
| Paving and Drainage..... | 5 |

SPECIAL PREMISES.

| | |
|--|----|
| Shops and Offices Act - - General Inspections..... | 12 |
| Shops and Offices Act - other inspections..... | 8 |
| Shops and Offices Act - Accident investigations..... | 5 |
| Factory Inspections..... | 2 |
| Pet Shops..... | 2 |
| Clean Air Act - Inspections and observations..... | 8 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Sewer Swabbing..... | 3 |
| Pigeon Control..... | 6 |

PUBLIC CLEANSING

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Refuse collection..... | 25 |
| Tip inspection..... | 7 |
| Street cleaning..... | 9 |
| Public conveniences..... | 4 |
| Derelict cars..... | 4 |

FOOD CONTROL

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Food Hygiene..... | 13 |
| Food Inspections..... | 9 |
| Food Complaint Investigations..... | 5 |
| <u>MISCELLANEOUS VISITS</u> | 7 |

NOTICES SERVED FOR PUBLIC HEALTH ACT PURPOSES.

| <u>PURPOSE.</u> | <u>Informal</u> | | <u>Official.</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| | <u>Verbal.</u> | <u>Written.</u> | | |
| Drains, sanitary accommodation and appliance..... | 1 | 5 | 1 | 7 |
| Paving & Drainage... | - | 3 | - | 3 |
| House Defects..... | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| Shops & Offices Act. | - | 9 | - | 9 |
| Food Hygiene and Complaints..... | 2 | 4 | - | 6 |
| Noise..... | 1 | 2 | - | 3 |
| Smoke..... | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Dirty premises and offensive accumulations..... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Insect Infestations. | 1 | 1 | - | 2 |
| Dustbins..... | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Derelict cars..... | - | 2 | - | 2 |
| | 7 | 32 | 4 | 43 |

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART ONE OF THE ACT.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector)

| <u>PREMISES.</u> | <u>Number on Register.</u> | <u>Inspections.</u> | <u>Number of:- Written Notices.</u> | <u>Occupiers Prosecuted.</u> |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------|---|------------------------------|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| (i) Factories in which Sects. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities..... | 3 | - | - | - |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority..... | 42 | 2 | - | - |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) | - | - | - | - |

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORKERS.

One only - glove Making .

